



January 16, 2002

A.G. John Ashcroft, U.S. Dept. of Justice  
950 Penna. Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for the settlement reached in the Microsoft Antitrust Lawsuit last November. The settlement is fair, and it will allow the IT industry to continue to grow while prohibiting any action that might be anticompetitive.

The resolution reached in the antitrust suit has many positive aspects for consumers, as well as hardware and software companies, and should stimulate further economic development in the IT field. Under the settlement, Microsoft has granted additional rights to both software designers and computer manufacturers which will allow for competing peripheral software components, such as non-Microsoft web browsers and e-mail clients, to be more easily integrated and work better within the Windows OS. Additionally, it allows for computer manufacturers to ship systems with those same competing software components pre-installed within Windows.

While some argue that the settlement did not cut Microsoft deeply enough, I believe that these, along with the other articles of the antitrust settlement, will limit unfair competitive action and allow Microsoft, as well as others, to continue to develop quality products and further economic growth within the IT sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Estelle Brand".

Estelle Brand  
Vice President

cc: Senator Rick Santorum